

## NO 33

arrived at our destination but (b) not at the

when I returned my companion was gone.

The latter was just narrating the fact when I entered the room. In the course of his remarks, he drew a handkerchief from his pocket, and this action jerked out something which fell on the floor. Looking

I had seen in the possession of the old man, having the same initial upon it. The minister hastily picked it up, and then turned towards me. I pretended to have observed nothing. He seemed somewhat satisfied and resumed his narrative.

Now, for the first time, the idea struck me, that the old man in the stage coach—the minister, and the object of my pursuit—was before me. That night two other boarders were robbed. The proprietor began to be alarmed; he said he was sure the guilty party was some one in the house. I exclaimed "I am willing and insist upon being searched; and I hope for their own vindication those present will submit to the same."

—the minister included—was searched, nothing was found. I then proposed that each one of the boarders should watch for a night until the robberies ceased, and knowing the influence of example, offered to stand guard for the night myself.

The plan seemed to please the minister, or he not only assented to it, but persuaded the others to agree to it. Accordingly that night I entered upon my self-imposed duty.

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The result of the plan proved entirely successful. Pretending to leave my room to obtain a pitcher of water, I returned silently without going down stairs, and arrested the preacher robbing my trunk: He was convicted and sent to prison.

Some forty years ago the market price of a horse was \$100, "free for any thing with a pair, one and a half on."

A man in the neighborhood, named Hays had a bull that he was in the habit of riding to mill with his bag of corn, and he determined to enter him for the race. He said nothing about it to any one, but he rode him around the track, a number of times, on several moonlight nights, until the bull had the hang of the ground pretty well, and would keep the right course. He rode with spurs, which the bull considered particularly disagreeable; so much so that he always bellowed when they were applied to his sides.

On the morning of the race, Hays <sup>climbed</sup> upon the ground on horseback—on his bull. Instead of a saddle, he had drier <sup>than</sup> an ox hide, the head part of which with the horns still on, he had placed on the bull's rump. He carried a short tin horn in his hand. He rode to the judges' stand and offered to enter his bull for the race; but the owners of the horses that were entered objected. Hays appealed to the terms of notice; insisting that his bull had "four legs and hair on," and that therefore he had a right to enter him. After a good deal of swearing, the judges declared themselves compelled to decide that the bull had the right to run; and was entered accordingly.

bull and the horses took their places. The horse-racers were out of humor at being bothered with the bull, and at the burlesque, which they supposed was intended but thought that it would be over as soon as the horses started.

When the signal was given, they did start,—lays gave a blast with his horn, and sunk his spurs into the sides of the bull, who bounded off with a terrible bawl at no trifling speed, the dried ox-hide flapping up and down, and rattling at every jump, making a combination of noises that had never been heard on a race-course before.

The horses all flew the track, every one seemed to be seized with a sudden determi-

of the Redstone country, and not one of them could be brought back in time to save their distance. The purse was given to Hays.

A general row ensued; but the fun of the thing put the crowd all on the side of the bull. The horsemen contended they were swindled out of their purse, and that if it had not been for Hays' ox-hide and horn, which he ought not to have been permitted to bring upon the ground, the thing would not have turned out as it did.

Upon this, Hays told them that his bull could beat any of their horses any how, and if they would put up a hundred dollars against the purse he had won, he would take off the ox-hide, and leave his

His offer was accepted and the money staked.

They again took their places at the starting-post, and the signal was given. Hays gave the bull another touch with his spur, and the bull gave a tremendous bellow. The horses remembering the dreadful sound, thought all the rest was coming as before. Away they went again in spite of all the exertions of their riders, while Hays galloped his bull around the track again and won the money.











